

The EARTH Village Festival at Great Northern Way Campus

A celebratory seven-day, multicultural event, the Festival will provide a unique and rich opportunity for delegates to the World Urban Forum (WUF) to interact with local and visiting Canadian youth, artists and local citizens. People who work for positive social change in their communities across Canada and around the world will be gathering together for performances, exhibitions, dialogues, workshops, food and social exchange. This initiative has been endorsed by the Canadian WUF organizers as the official arts and culture Festival of the Forum.

The Festival will run June 19-25, 2006 - spanning both the World Urban Forum (June 19-23) and the beginning of the World Peace Forum. WUF (which is expecting 8-10,000 delegates) has endorsed the Festival and the EARTH Village site as an official "people" site. They will provide a shuttle from the WUF Conference at the Trade and Convention Centre and will market our events to their delegates. JMP has also been invited to convene a networking session within the official WUF program (on arts, youth and social change); to greet WUF delegates upon arrival at the Vancouver Airport with musical performances; and to host an early evening program at the Festival site for WUF delegates after the official closing ceremony of the Forum on June 23 (tbc).

The Festival will also celebrate Canadian arts and culture, including specially commissioned new work. The program itself will include performances, exhibitions, multi-media work, street theatre and late night events. In addition to the arts and performance elements, the Festival will provide opportunities for direct public engagement through workshops and dialogue sessions.

The EARTH Village site will act as a focal point for community engagement related to the World Urban Forum. It will be a place for the general public to become involved and for delegates to the Forum, whose sessions will generally be closed to the public, to engage with local citizens.

Proposed Artistic Events

The following is a list of individuals and organisations we are currently in dialogue with about possible participation in the Festival.

From British Columbia – In a huge, tent-like structure, this new JMP production, *EARTH=home*, incorporates music, theatre dance, projections and a young professional cast of 15 performers. Based on three years of workshops with youth that explored their thoughts and feelings about the state of the earth, this accessible, entertaining and relevant, large-scale show is slated to tour Canada in 2007. Facilitated discussions after every show create dialogue and energy for engagement in the issues explored in the production.

From British Columbia - Vancouver's Public Dreams will be presenting the Salmon Celebration. Robert Benaroya and Caravan Music will be collaborating on a music program that will include up to twenty musicians from diverse BC communities. The Vancouver Chamber Choir and Arts Umbrella will be working with BC composer Hal Beckett on the creation of a new piece. M Simon Levin will be working with leading sound and visual artists in the creation of the Containers Project. Other partners include One World Theatre, In the House Festival and the Roundhouse. There will also be local community engagement with international

artists such as Judith Baca, Daniel Sanchez, Fabrizio Crisafulli as described below. A full program of BC artists – including work from our First Nations communities – is currently under development.

From Canada –The First Nations group Red Sky from Toronto and Kehewin Native Performance from Calgary. Daniel Jolliffe will be bringing his inter-active, mobile sculpture, One Free Minute. We are also in discussion with Toronto-based Peace Theatre to bring something to the Festival. A full program of Canadian artists is under development.

From India – Manisha Mehta's Ahmedabad-based street theatre group performs to huge audiences. Her organization is composed of slum dwellers. Four actors and two musicians from her troupe will perform a short music/theatre/dance piece and then engage in dialogue with audience members.

From Pakistan – Punjab Lok Raqs has over 25 years experience working all over the Punjab. Their work, which takes place in theatres and in the streets, involves youth and, in recent years, has focused on women's and language rights. They use traditional music, dance and text in their presentations.

From the Philippines – PETA uses movement, music, bicycles and audience participation in their environmental initiative, The Firefly Project, which was created to encourage the use of bicycles. The "package" includes a workshop, a parade and a performance that involves both professionals and workshop members.

From Malaysia – Mark Teh, from Five Arts, creates youth-centred, largely movement-based performance works about human rights and the environment

From China – TBA

From Colombia – Colegio del Cuerpo, under the direction of Alvaro Restrepo, transforms lives of street-involved and other disadvantaged youth with dance. His young company has begun to tour internationally. The work they perform covers a wide range of immediate issue-based content and traditional perspectives.

From Brazil – Peoples Palace works with youth in the criminal justice system. Their touring performance company, made up of ex-prisoners, produces extraordinary work about the realities of life for many people in their country.

From Southern Africa – *arepp* works in seven Southern Africa countries in HIV/AIDS education. Their major artistic vehicle is puppetry with music. They will be bringing one of their pieces on HIV prevention as well as facilitating a workshop on the use of puppetry in community-arts practice.

From South Africa/Costa Rica - Under the direction of Liz Rehoj, the Community Outreach Project, an acclaimed environmental theatre organisation brings a collaboration with colleagues in Costa Rica, based on community input.

From Japan – The EARTH Project Society, based in three Japanese cities, is creating a youth production in the form of a musical based on youth workshops to explore youth perspectives.

From Australia – Tony Le'Nguyen brings a play about identity, created by second generation Vietnamese.Australian youth

From Nicaragua – Puntos de Enquentros creates soap operas for young people that are hugely popular and deal with human rights and other issues.

From Mexico – Daniel Sanchez' Mitote Music recycles garbage to create instruments for community orchestras. He will create such a musical group during the Festival and they will perform using their new instruments.

From Holland –Theatre Embassy uses theatre, clowning and movement to create issue-based performance pieces in communities all over the developing world, mostly in Africa. They will be bringing their critically acclaimed piece *The Waterhole*, a collaboration with the National Theatre of Namibia.

From the U.K. – The acclaimed Chicken Shed Theatre will bring “Globaleyes”, a youth production that has had rave reviews at the Edinburgh Festival, deals with issues of globalisation through the eyes of young people. Music, dance and theatre

From Italy – using light and sound, Fabrizio Crisafulli will create a site-specific piece especially for the Festival. Working in co-operation with students from academic institutions and based on a process that will involve the local community, this piece will explore the history of the Festival site. Crisafulli is world-renowned for his movement/theatre direction and use of innovative lighting to explore notions of place.

From the U.S. – the critically-acclaimed Liz Lerman Dance Exchange will bring their latest production, which explores genocide and the law and was developed in co-operation with Harvard Law School.

Community Partnerships

A series of community partnerships which bring together local and visiting artists and local community members are planned to run before and during the Festival. These are designed to create a legacy of personal and artistic connections for everyone who takes part. Here are some of the events that we are planning.

With the Vancouver Chamber Choir, Youth Choir and Arts Umbrella Senior Dance Company.

Two commissions: in music for the creation of a choral work designed for adult and youth choirs. Composed for community participation and useful for both home and touring situations, it will be based on world music themes. The choreographic commission is for the creation of new work with this music, created by a young choreographer and premiered at EARTH Village festival in June '06.

With the Roundhouse Community Centre in Vancouver and Mitote Music (Mexico)

Daniel Sanchez, the acclaimed Mexican musician will work with young people for two weeks to create an orchestra made of recycled “garbage” and to compose a new work to be performed by the this “Mitote Orchestra” at the festival.

With Caravan Music

Robert Benaroya and JMP collaborate to create an exciting and varied music program that partners musicians from throughout BC, working in diverse traditional and fusion forms as well as musicians coming to the Festival from abroad. These include artists from India, Pakistan and the West Bank.

With Vancouver’s Public Dreams

The Salmon Celebration that will carry through the 7 days of the festival. The project will include public workshops and processions/events throughout the festival site.

With Judith Baca (director of SPARC, Los Angeles)

The creation and exhibition of the first Canadian panel of the World Wall, which will be created over the 7 days of the festival and added to the larger 8 panel (each 30’x10’) installation which will be on view on the festival site.

With Vietnamese Community Workers and Tony LeNguyen (Australia)

A workshop that explores realities in Canada and Australia for second generation immigrant youth. With young people from Melbourne who are performing a play they have created about this topic that will be presented at the Festival.

Proposed Exhibition and Demonstration Projects

The Festival will also include programming of exciting exhibition and demonstration projects relevant to the themes of the EARTH Project. The following gives an idea of where we currently are in the development of this strand.

The Green Stream

In collaboration with community partners from BC environmental organizations, a variety of interactive events are planned for the Village. These include bicycle, recycling, energy usage, food, and advocacy activities - all presently in the planning stage. The Resource Fair, a marketplace for information about community-based environmental and civil society organizations, will run throughout the Festival.

CIRS Exhibit

The cornerstone of sustainability research at Great Northern Way Campus is the Centre for Interactive Research in Sustainability (CIRS). CIRS will be a living laboratory in sustainability, housing research and teaching programs of the GNWC partner institutions. The building itself will be a test bed for innovation in sustainable infrastructure, systems and processes. It will be funded jointly by grants from the federal and provincial governments, corporate contributions and commercial revenues. Intensive planning is in progress under the leadership of Project Leader Dr. John Robinson. Construction will commence in 2006. The Learning City group is developing instructional and research programs linked to CIRS. The exhibit itself will consist of two elements:

- A virtual tour of the CIRS building consisting of a 3D model with interactive elements showing individual sustainable systems and features. This exhibit will be developed in conjunction with Science World, where it will move following the completion of the festival.
- Cladding of the CIRS building site walls showing elements of how the building is constructed as well as its special and unique features. This exhibit will also be done in conjunction with Science World and be a continuing part of the Sustainability Walking Tour of the South False Creek Sustainability Precinct supported by the GREEN GUIDE.

Green Roof Facility - Demonstration Project

A consortium of regional government organizations, roofing associations, and material and horticultural suppliers (including CMHC, Environment Canada, and GVRD) was assembled to provide initial capital and operational costs for this facility. It was designed as a series of modular units that can be relocated and reused for future research in significantly different climates throughout BC. Built on the BCIT Burnaby campus by trade students, the modules were re-located and reside at GNWC. The Centre's functions include conducting applied research in collaboration with other universities and governmental organizations, assisting the local manufacturers in the development and enhancement of green roof systems, materials, and technology, and developing a regional infrastructure network to inventory performance of green roofs. The proposed project for the EVF will improve public awareness of the technology through a 2D educational display and demonstration of the unique features of the facility

COB House

This ancient building technique uses a mixture of sand, clay and straw that is then applied to the foundation in layers. When dry, the material is very hard and load bearing allowing the roof to be placed directly onto the walls. This technique requires almost no money or skill, and involves very little environmental destruction, while at the same time allowing creative and organic designs which blend in to the surroundings. Cob allows itself to be shaped and molded, allowing bas-reliefs, shelves, alcoves, and even furniture to be built right into the wall. Cob, being earth, is totally fireproof, so even a fireplace can be built into the design.

Vancouver is home to some of Canada's leaders in cob construction, a construction practice that is gaining wide currency in North America as a viable alternative to existing building practices. A demonstration project will be established on the Festival site, allowing visitors an opportunity to not only learn about cob construction, but also to participate in the creation of cob bricks which will be used to create a small shelter.

WORLD WALL: A Vision of the Future Without Fear

The WORLD WALL is a "participatory process" mural, conceived by Chicana mural artist Judith F. Baca Begun in Los Angeles in 1987. It examines contemporary issues of global importance: war, peace, interdependence and spiritual growth. The WORLD WALL is currently made up of eight 10' x 30' portable panels which envision a transformation from a war-based society to a

peaceful one using a process that involves youth and adults from each community it visits. In its finished state, 14 panels will be completed that incorporate works from around the globe. The Canadian panel will be created in Vancouver with BC artists (a Canadian centre for community –based mural work) at the EARTH Village. This dramatic and moving exhibition speaks to the hopes and aspirations of people around the world.

An innovative travelling installation system of poles, guy-wires and canvas frees the murals from the restrictions of conventional art exhibitions. All eight 10x30 foot panels assemble into a 100 foot diameter circle creating an arena for dialogue. It has been engineered to accommodate seven additional panels, one from each country it visits as it tours the globe. This exhibit is the forerunner of a new method of international mural production destined to become a model for future works.

“Lines of Communication, Lines of Commitment”

This participatory art work harnesses the power of individual expression and embodied beliefs to create a gesture of collective commitment and breathtaking beauty. From the top of the Black Box, a series of “clotheslines” descend to the ground of the Village. At the base of each line is a small work area facilitated by community artists that foster the contributions by *each visitor* to the site. Visitors are invited to add personal statements of commitment on silk screened recycled cloth remnants - provided by the Village - about their stewardship of the earth and about their hopes for the future. These are attached to the lines and sent up into the air. Borrowing from the poetic and spiritual elegance of traditional “prayer flags” used in Tibetan and other cultures around the world the ‘Lines’ build community through direct personal involvement and demonstrate the power of numbers in transforming the immediate environment. As each line gathers more and more flags over the successive days of the festival, they rise from multiple site locations converging at the highest point to create an umbrella like structure that blows in the summer breeze. The collection of these flags, created over 10 days by hundreds of visitors, both young and old, will serve as a physical legacy of our communities’ sensibilities - and will be available, in other exhibition forms, to travel to schools and to community and arts centres in Canada.

“Inside My Home”

Inside a “room” that is open on its fourth wall, visitors will be able to organize and comment on what objects and functions that they consider necessary elements for daily home life. Four countries will be chosen, objects collected from people who come from those communities. With various technologies symbolically represented, and real artefacts arranged and displayed, each day, visitors will have the opportunity to create a living space that demonstrates both their values and their ideas about sustainable and creative daily life.

Exchanges: Ancient Knowledge, Sustainable Practices

Five young BC First Nation artists will create works that reveal how traditional knowledge and practice have informed ideas of sustainability that only now have currency within western societies. Exchanges will bring together traditional materials, urban refuse, natural plants and new media technology to highlight the

principles of reciprocity as a guiding value. “If you take from somewhere you must give back somewhere else” is a concept that has been challenging to the resource driven ways that inform contemporary ideas of growth and development. These young cultural workers expand on First Nation story-telling traditions to create well crafted objects and images that will give visitors to the Earth site reason to pause and reflect on colonial history’s legacy. The power of the forms utilized by these artists move beyond traditional avenues of resistance to imbue the viewer with a sense of inspired optimism and openness to change.

One Free Minute

During the festival, a unique bicycle will circulate around the Earth Village and around the city broadcasting messages of hope, resistance and change. A creation of Canadian artist Daniel Jolliffe, this is no ordinary- vehicle. It is a traveling talk show linked by digital technology to the telephone system. Anyone on the Earth site and from outside can “phone in” and engage in conversation or broadcast their monologues that can be heard by observers standing in proximity to the bike. In this way, freedom of speech moves from the safety of a protected constitutional right to an experiential practice of democracy.

The Ground We Stand On

Fabrizio Crisafulli, is a world-renowned creator of outdoor installations with light and sound, will engage in a community process to investigate the history of the land of the Great Northern Way Campus. Working with local students from the educational institutions at Great Northern Way, and with others from the surrounding community, he will create a dramatic presentation that will be displayed every night in the Village – a reminder that we are living in a place that has a fascinating and dramatic history, one that informs us not only about the past but leads us to think more clearly about the future.

The Containers Project

A collaborative creation by BC artists M. Simon Levin, Jean Routhier, Kate Armstrong, Laurie Long, Manuel Piña, Leonard Paul, Bobbie Kozinuk and Alice Ming Wai, the Containers project will investigate how we are implicated in the migration of goods and people around the world. Six shipping containers of various sizes will be placed around the Village site. Each container will have custom made, interactive elements that will collect and transmit data that will modify the environment in each of the empty containers. This process will foster awareness of and engagement with public space in ways in which individual choice impacts on collective outcomes.

Proposed Workshops & Dialogue Sessions

A varied program of workshops and dialogue sessions will be organized to encourage direct public engagement and participation. These facilitated sessions will guide participants in learning through hands-on workshops and information-sharing sessions. Youth-led workshops, panels, discussion circles, and show and tells round out a program of exchange and discovery sharing the challenges and successes of current and recently completed projects and exploring themes of social justice and environmental sustainability through dance, theatre, visual art and music.

What is Dialogue? A practical introduction to facilitation and dialogue techniques.

Dr. Joanna Ashworth, Director of SFU's Centre for Dialogue, provides a "container" for the EARTH Village dialogue and discussion sessions. For anyone interested to learn more about this rapidly expanding field.

How we did it.

Shared stories of how individuals and groups launched and operated successful arts/activist projects. A way to share strategies for effective work in a wide variety of settings. Helpful hints for realizing good ideas that engage others in collective work for progressive change.

The games we play; the work we do

Hands-on sessions to share the games, facilitation methods, art practices we use in our work for progressive social and environmental change. Will create dialogue amongst local, Canadian and visiting artists the public and youth activists from abroad.

International collaborations – visions and networks

What networks exist worldwide for creating engagement through the arts? What are these networks doing? How can we join in?

Hands-on arts workshops

A unique opportunity for visitors to take a workshop facilitated by some of the world's leading arts facilitators in community practices. Music, theatre, dance, visual arts, new media.

Hands-on arts workshops: NGO strategies for youth

A series of hands-on workshops given by five environmental and social justice NGO's who include various arts-based methodologies to teach and engage young people about the issues they are addressing.

Best practices for working with young people

What do "youth-led" and "youth-driven" mean? Youth speak out about the best ways to engage others in ongoing activist work for positive change.

Teachers, curriculum and social responsibility

How can secondary and post-secondary institutions better integrate arts-based education (and community- focused activities) about environment and social justice issues into their programs? What are successful examples of this approach in Canada and around the globe?

Proposed WUF Networking Session

JMP has been approached to convene a special session during the proceedings of the World Urban Forum. In addition to Judith Marcuse, the following speakers may participate:

Dr. Max Wyman, O.C., Canada. President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, author and policy advisor

Shoaib Iqbal, Pakistan. Director, Punjab Lok Raahs, a 30-year-old arts/human rights/ environment NGO, based in Lahore

Manisha Mehta, India. Director of VIDYA, an NGO working in the slums of Ahmedabad

Rosa Johnson, Canada. Youth facilitator, artist. Works with youth in native communities across Canada and New Zealand

David Thatenalo April, South Africa. Director of Mophatong, an NGO working with urban youth in educational settings

Jack Yabut, Philippines. Director at PETA, 35-year-old arts NGO that works with youth, founder of *Firefly*, a national environmental project

Abdelfattah Abusrour, West Bank, Palestine. Director of Al Rowaad Cultural Centre, Aida camp, Bethlehem, cultural centre for children and youth, with a youth theatre company that tours internationally

Pun Shiu Fai, China. Education and Outreach Director, CCDC, an arts organization based in Hong Kong and Beijing

Magno Barros, Brazil. Director of Peoples Palace, working in music and theatre with urban at-risk youth

Alvaro Restrepo, Colombia. Founder and Director of Colegio del Cuerpo, working with youth in Cartagena and in Hamburg, Germany

Tony LeNguyen, Australia/Vietnam. Director of Vietnamese Youth Media, working in Australia and Vietnam with urban Vietnamese youth

Kimingichi Wabende, Kenya. Professor of Literature, University of Nairobi and founder/director of PPT, an established theatre company

Mark Teh, Malaysia. Young community artist/facilitator, director working with Five Arts Centre, Kuala Lumpur. Founder of Asian Youth Artist network

Sustainable City Jam

Sustainable City Jam is the local counterpart to WUF3's Habitat Jam. SJC will use web technology and more than 100 community events to engage 10,000 local residents in a 72 hour dialogue focusing on the sustainable development of the Greater Vancouver region. SJC offers the opportunity for people from all walks of life and all regions of Greater Vancouver to come together to present and evaluate ideas on how we can meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Specific themes will be drawn from the GVRD's Sustainable Region Initiative and the Habitat Jam. This dialogue will raise public awareness, inform policy-making and galvanize action on urban sustainability within Greater Vancouver. It will also demonstrate how WUF can engage host communities by linking global and local issues and have a positive and transformative impact on local urban development. We expect that SJC will be a legacy of WUF3 and be embraced by future host communities. SJC partners will include the GVRD, United Way, Channel M, CBC and other mainstream and ethnic media.

Food as Cultural Ambassador

A central component in creating a sense of community at the Festival will be a collection of food tents located on the Festival site. Food is an integral part of cultural expression and visitors to the EARTH Village will be able to delight in locally produced, international fare – an excellent accompaniment to the art and performance and another layer in the cultural mixing that is central to this initiative

Background on the EARTH Project

The International EARTH Village Festival represents the culmination of five years of work through our international **EARTH Project**, the third in our quartet of major, youth-based initiatives after the ICE and FIRE Projects. The EARTH Project is designed to

engage young people in the key issues that we are confronting on a global level, including environmental protection and the development of civil society. These global issues are having an increasing impact on our local lives and represent the key issues that young people will have to face as they take responsibility not just for their local community but also the wider, global community. Our objective with the EARTH Project is to not just inform young people about these issues but to also give them the confidence and resources to make a positive contribution locally and globally.

The EARTH Symposium

The International EARTH Village grew out of this five-day, UNESCO-designated event held in the spring of 2004. It brought together 300 delegates from across Canada and 21 other countries to explore the relationship between the arts, community development, the environment and the creation of civil society. Participants included artists, community workers, arts in community practitioners, arts organizations, environmentalists, social activists, educators, scholars, policy-makers and youth from across Canada and around the world. Over 70 workshops and information-sharing sessions were held, allowing participants to build capacity and create new networks for positive change. Half the participants were under the age of 25. The symposium provided a network of key EARTH Partners who will return to Vancouver in June 2006 for the EARTH Village.

About the World Urban Forum

Hosted by the Government of Canada and taking place in Vancouver, this will be the third session of the United Nation's World Urban Forum (WUF III). It will take place from June 19 – 23 and will have as its theme *Our Future: Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action*. The Forum will examine the impact of rapid urbanization on communities, cities, economies and policies. It will be attended by a wide range of partners from non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, urban professionals, academics, to governments, local authorities and national and international associations of local governments. It gives all these actors a common platform to discuss urban issues in formal and informal ways and come up with action-oriented proposals to create sustainable cities. Some 10,000 delegates are expected to attend.

In addition to providing a shuttle to the EARTH Village, WUF will also be hosting some of our artists in performance at the conference itself. We are in discussion with WUF organizers about creating a special evening of events for the delegates at the EARTH Village on June 23. In addition, Judith Marcuse has been invited to host a formal networking session on “arts and social change” within the Forum, itself.